REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 33-55, 64, and 66-68 have been cancelled without prejudice to their representation in a continuation application. In the meantime, the Examiner is respectfully requested to act on applicants' suggestion of interference filed December 23, 2005, and to forward to the BPAI a recommendation that it declare an interference between allowed claims 56-63 and 65 and the claims listed below in the following four commonly owned Lazarides et al. patents:

- (1) Claims 1-36 in patent No. 6,219,694;
- (2) Claims 1-12 in patent No. 6,389,457;
- (3) Claims 1-34 in patent No. 6,401,113; and
- (4) Claims 5, 8-23, 25-33, 35-50, and 52-58 in patent No. 6,701,378.

If there are any further issues concerning this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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